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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/909,383	07/19/2001	Akira Taguchi	4196-A1JPUS	4018

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EXAMINER

CHEN, SHIN HON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2131

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary****Application No.**

09/909,383

**Applicant(s)**

TAGUCHI, AKIRA

**Examiner**

Shin-Hon Chen

**Art Unit**

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-9 have been examined.

***Priority***

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Japan on 12/25/2000. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 2000-391720 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor U.S. Pat. No. 6542583 (hereinafter Taylor) in view of Watkins U.S. Pat. No. 5719560 (hereinafter Watkins).

5. As per claim 1, Taylor discloses a password generation and verification system, comprising: element group storage means for storing a plurality of element groups that belong to a selected category that is pre-selected from a plurality of different categories (Taylor: column 1 line 59 – column 2 line 47; column 3 lines 46-60), wherein each element group includes at least one password element that belongs to the category thereof (Taylor: column 3 line 61 – column 4

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line 21); scramble element storage means for pre-storing a plurality of scramble elements that belong to said selected category according to said category (Taylor: column 3 line 61 – column 4 line 21); category sampling means for randomly sampling a specific number of specific categories from said selected category (Taylor: column 6 lines 38-47); mixed element group generating means for mixing a sampled password element that is randomly sampled from said element group storage means according to said specific category and a predefined number of sampled scramble elements, different from said sampled password element, that are randomly sampled from said scramble element storage means according to said specific category, a mixed element group, where said sampled password element and said sampled scramble elements are arranged in random order (Taylor: column 3 line 61 – column 4 line 21; column 6 lines 38-47); selecting means for selecting, from said mixed element group, a selected password element according to said specific category (Taylor: column 4 line 66 – column 5 line 27); and verifying means for verifying said selected password element to said sampled password element according to said specific category (Taylor: column 6 lines 27-48). Taylor does not explicitly disclose having display means for displaying said mixed element group. However, Watkins discloses a method for verifying personal identity through cue-response pair and presenting the cues to a person through display means and the cues are imageable cue-response pairs (Watkins: column 5 lines 30-54; column 9 lines 13-18). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to apply the authentication method to any type of transaction/communication. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Watkins within the

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system of Taylor because it allows on-site transaction authentication to be carried out through visual communication.

6. As per claim 2, Taylor as modified discloses a password generation and verification system according to claim 1. Taylor as modified further discloses wherein said element group is stored, with said password element associated with said specific category, in said element group storage means (Taylor: column 3 lines 46-60).

7. As per claim 3, Taylor as modified discloses a password generation and verification system according to claim 1. Taylor as modified further discloses wherein said password element includes image information (Watkins: column 5 line 58 – column 6 line 13).

8. As per claim 4, Taylor as modified discloses a password generation and verification system according to claim 1. Taylor as modified further discloses wherein said mixed element group generating means is coupled via a telecommunication line to said display means and said selecting means (Watkins: column 9 lines 13-19; Taylor: column 3 lines 17-29).

9. As per claim 5, Taylor as modified discloses a password generation and verification system according to claim 4. Taylor as modified further discloses wherein said telecommunication line includes lines for utilizing a fixed telephone, cellular telephone, and the Internet (Taylor: column 3 lines 17-29).

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10. As per claim 6, Taylor as modified discloses a password generation and verification system according to claim 1. Taylor as modified further discloses wherein said verifying means outputs a match signal when all of said selected password elements match said sampled password elements (Taylor: column 7 lines 21-23).

11. As per claim 7-9, claims 7-9 encompass the same scope as that of claims 1-6. Therefore, claims 7-9 are rejected based on the reasons set forth in claims 1-6.

### *Conclusion*

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

French et al. U.S. Pat. No. 6263447 discloses system and method for authentication of network users through questions.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shin-Hon Chen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3789. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30am to 5:30pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shin-Hon Chen  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2131

SC

  
AU 2131  
12/16/04